(3) if the increase is due to increased quantity will the Government be pleased to state if the quantity supplied this year was nearly double of the quantity of the last year?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(1) The average cost of drugs for four years prior to 1101 was Rs. 884—9—0. In 1101 it was Rs. 1,626-13-6.

(2) The increase is not due to the rise in the cost of drugs, but to the increased quantity of drugs supplied.

(3) More than double.

499. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Superintendent of Central Jail reported to the Inspector-General of Prisons for an additional allotment;

(2) will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Superintendent has stated that the additional allotment had become necessary on account of the cost of drugs and that he was in no way responsible for this increased cost;

(3) will the Government be pleased to state what order has been passed by the Inspector-General and the Government on the requisition of the Superintendent of the Central Jail?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(1) Yes.

(2) The Superintendent reported that a portion of the additional allotment asked for by him was on account of the cost of medicines.

(3) The Inspector-General recommended the additional allotment.

Expenditure in the Tramway Department.

500. Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the annual expenditure of the Tramway Department from 1090 to 1101 with the quantity of timber transported by the Tramway during those years?

Mr K. Govinda Menon.—The information required can be obtained from *the Administration Reports* for the years in question, copies of which are available in the Council Library.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Has not the Government noticed that from 1095 onwards the cost of fuel, sleepers, tallow and oil for the Tramway Department has been going up by leaps and bounds? It is nearly double, while the supply has become half.

President.—His question is why there is not a proportionate reduction in the cost of oil, tallow, etc., with reference to the quantity of timber transported.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—The cost in the beginning, i. e., when the engines are new, and have more carrying capacity, is

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less, but, when they get older, they require more fuel, tallow, greeze, etc., i. e., when their carrying power becomes less and less.

President.—All that depends upon the age and efficiency of the engine.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Yes, Sir.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I ask the Chief Engineer whether the answer is correct? My point is that it is not correct.

President.—You may take it to be so.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know when the engines became old?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Gradually they are becoming older and older.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Would the Government kindly tell us why from 1095 onwards there is an increase but till 1095 it was the same?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—In 1095 the work was begun. All these materials are required for workshops also.

President.—The workshop was not in existence then.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—No, Sir. The workshop was not in existence then.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Yes, Sir. The workshop existed long before.

President.—There is a dispute about facts, and I am helpless.

501. Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it has been satisfied that the increase of expenditure in the Tramway Department from 1095 to 1101 was necessary for the purposes of the department;

(b) (1) whether before sanctioning the increased expenditure referred to in (a) the Government have recorded the reasons for the increased expenditure;

(2) if so, whether the reasons so recorded will be placed on the Council table?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) (1) Yes.

(2) The main cause for the increased expenditure between the years 1095 to 1099 was the development of the Chalakkudi Workshop. In 1100 and 1101 it was due to the necessity for repairing the damages caused by the unprecedented floods of 1099 and the general overhaul of the line sanctioned.

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